ASL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014

Australian Society for Limnology Inc.
Newsletter Volume 52, No. 3
Spring 2014

Editor: Amy George
amy.george@environment.gov.au

www. asl.org.au
www.facebook.com/groups/australiansocietyforlimnology

ASL ABN 54 606 483 226
ISSN 1037-2512

Cover image by Ryan Bliss 2014, sourced from digitalblasphemy.com, November 2014

Contents

President's report	4
Book review	6
Contributed article - Gone West	8
Conference watch	11
Contributed article - The Water Vista	13
ASL facebook facts	17
Apps to know	19
RSS and you	21
Minutes ASL AGM	24
Minutes Executive Teleconference	32
ASL communications	34
Reports from the trenches	36
ASL experts	40
ASL membership	42
ASL executive 2014	43
ASL Representatives	44

President's report

The joint congress with ASFB in Darwin was a great success and enjoyed by all, this newsletter contains the minutes of the AGM and links to photos from the congress on the Facebook page. One of the items that came up at the AGM was the handover of the role of Newsletter Editor to Amy George and suggestions for improvements to the newsletter and the other means of communication among members that we now offer via the website and the Facebook page. Look out for the report by Amy later in the newsletter explaining these exciting new ways for us to communicate and stay in touch between congresses. A huge vote of thanks also goes to Sam Capon for editing the ASL newsletter over the past few years.The next congress will be our joint congress with NZFSS in November 2015 in Wellington, New Zealand, so it is quite a long way off. Staying in touch between congresses becomes even more important. I also urge members to organize state-based ASL events in the interim and make use of the funding available.

The executive recently considered the response we received from Science and Technology Australia to our letter expressing concerns that we are not getting tangible value from STA membership. The executive was not impressed with the response letter, which did not offer us anything other than the services of which we are aware (e.g. science meets parliament) and did not appear to consider advocacy on behalf of member societies as part of their role. The executive has decided to continue to negotiate with STA on what might be possible in terms of advocacy for the concerns of freshwater scientists to Canberra and this will be taken up by our incoming President, Fran Sheldon. However, unless the situation changes, it seems likely that we will be recommending to the membership at the next AGM that ASL withdraws from STA membership. Any members interested in further input to the discussion should contact Fran.

In response to the invitation to participate in the work of the newly established National Committee for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (AAS), Rebecca Lester and Fran Sheldon have joined one of the sub-committees working towards furthering the aims of the National Committee. Members interested in this AAS program should visit http://www.ecosystemscienceplan.org.au/

Sadly, Jacqui Moir has resigned from ASN Events to pursue other opportunities. I would like to thank her for all her hard work for the Society over the past few years. Emily Gangell, who many

of you may already know from recent congresses, has taken over from Jacqui and will be the main point of contact for the Society. One of the first things Emily has done is to establish a generic ASL email address so that we can be contacted as a Society by non-members or non-member organizations. ASN (Emily) monitor this address and forward emails to relevant members of the executive. This address is secretariat@asl.org.au

This is my last report as President, as next month I hand over to Fran and become immediate past president. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge all the help that I have had as President and Vice President from the Executive, ASN and the wider membership. Particular thanks to Darren Ryder, for always offering support and passing on his knowledge of ASL. To Richard Marchant, for his wisdom and long-term understanding of ASL and its members; Rebecca Lester for her able management of the Society's finances and Fran Sheldon for her support as Vice-President. Being Society President has been rewarding and (mostly) fun and a great opportunity to give a little bit back to a Society that has given me so much, especially as a student and early-career researcher. Indeed, this year marks my 25th year of membership so I now qualify for membership of the Lungfish Chapter!

Wishing you and your families all the best for the Festive Season, Belinda

Belinda

from the editor...

Welcome to the late Spring newsletter brought to you by a new editor. I have boldly agreed to take on the editorial torch and will endevour to continue the tradition of creative news delivery. A big thank-you to everyone who has contributed or compiled news for this edition. We couldn't do this without you.

Cheers,

Amy

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Dr Amy George

Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist

DEPUTY EDITORS:

Doug Green

Paul Wettin

A Brief Review of Australian Freshwater Ecology (2nd Edition 2014)

It is 41 years since the late Bill Williams and I published our Inland Waters and their Ecology, the first textbook on Australasian limnology, and 15 years since the first edition of Australian Freshwater Ecology. The second edition of AFE is a monumental achievement for which the six authors should be very proud.

It is beautifully written and illustrated, and as free of errors as is humanly possible. The diverse topics are developed with an elegant and impelling flow of logic that is rarely seen and difficult to fault. There are nicely written bridging sections ensuring an easy flow from one section to another.

Completely new is a fine chapter on groundwaters. Here the authors nail their colours to the masthead by stating: "Effective management of aquatic ecosystems entails managing surface and sub-surface waters as a single and connected entity ----"

They define groundwater as: "Water that is present in soils and geological formations for sufficient time to undergo physical or chemical changes resulting from interactions with the aquifer environment."

Off-hand I do not know of another text on freshwater ecology that deals with groundwaters. Most confine consideration to lentic and lotic systems where the air/water interface is clearly visible to the human eye. These are the waters that are so important to the human psyche and sense of aesthetics. Even the greatly admired Evelyn Hutchinson with his monumental 3-volume Treatise on Limnology is not only silent on groundwaters but essentially omits lotic environments. [In 1967 I attended his graduate lectures at Yale University. I learnt a great deal about biogeochemistry and lentic waters, but nothing about running waters or groundwaters!]

Some of the fine diagrams have been carried over from the first edition, but an outstanding feature is an extensive new series of excellent and informative diagrams prepared by Belinda Cale. Over 100 "boxes" by a great variety of Australian authors adds spice to the engaging main text.

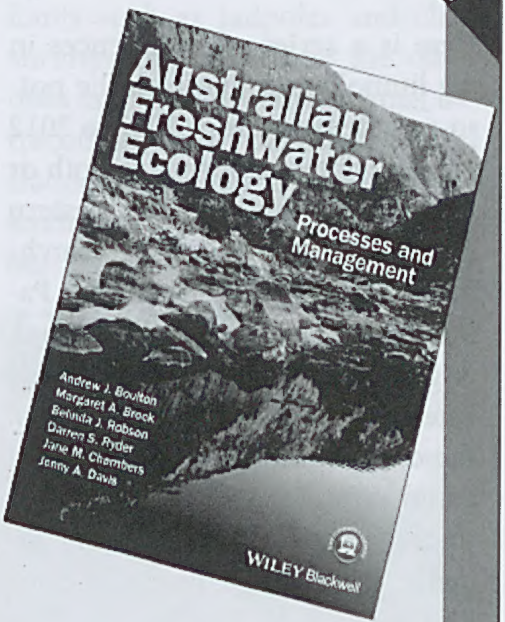
All Australian professional limnologists and water managers should posses a copy of the book. Additionally, university students studying Australian inland waters at the second or third year or Honours level will find AFE invaluable if not indispensable. Finally, the so called "intelligent lay person" interested in issues associated with coal seam gas exploration and fracking [hydraulic fracturing] will find a lot of useful background information in the chapter on groundwater.

Ian Bayly,
Killiecrankie, Flinders Island, Tasmania

Save 25%!
Use Code AFE14
on wiley.com

Australian Freshwater Ecology: Processes and Management

Andrew Boulton, Margaret Brock, Belinda Robson, Darren Ryder, Jane Chambers, Jenny Davis



Members of the Australian Society for Limnology save 25% on this book in recognition of the society's generous contribution toward its publication!

This book provides a single undergraduate textbook that covers the ecology and management of freshwater ecosystems (i.e., rivers and standing wetlands, perennial and temporary waters and groundwaters) in Australia. The book will update an earlier, highly successful version that is presently used by both undergraduates and postgraduates as well as industry practitioners. In particular, the book provides practitioners lacking a formal training in freshwater ecology, such as engineers and land-use planners, with a single volume resource for understandingthe function and management of Australian freshwater ecosystems, updated to include the substantial advances in our understanding of Australian freshwater ecology in the last decade.

WILEY Blackwell

Step 1: Go to bit.ly/AFE2014
Step 2: Enter code AFE14 at checkout

Questions, please call Wiley Customer Service at 07 3354 8455 and quote code AFE14

GONE WEST

by Brian Timms

Here is a series of experiences in my limnological life from the not-so-remote past. From 2002 to 2012 I spent winter or spring or both or more in the southwest of Western Australia. I was variously researching salt lakes, the brine shrimp Parartemia, branchiopods in general, or gnammas (rock basins). For this I needed a 4WD, and since one of the conditions of hiring one was I could not take it in remote rough tracks(!), I was forced to the expense of driving mine the long journey from NSW across the Nullarbor. To reduce costs I sometimes left my trusty Landcruiser in WA and flew across.

On one occasion I was shifting my caravan from a HQ at Grass Patch (Esperance hinterland) to Hyden (of Wave Rock fame) and stopping often along the highway to sample salt lakes. I was aware a cop was on my tail intermittently, so I was behaving impeccably. I worked out he was using my caravan as a cover to catch speeding motorists coming the other way. Eventually he pulled me over and wanted to know why I was stopping so often and causing a road hazard. I told him I was studying salt lakes to which he replied (a) how crazy --- they are wasteland and of no interest to anyone and (b) to desist as I was a danger to road users. Its tough when the Law impedes science; now its the Abbott Government.

In 2011, I committed 7 months to studying seasonal changes in a series of gnammas south to north. I might say I did not abandon my family completely, flying home twice between field trips and being visited by wife, daughter, daughter-in-law, and a cousin, each accompanying me in turn on my three-weekly transect from Ravensthorpe to Meekathara. One of my rocks was Yanneymooning, N of Merredin, where I met up with a local field naturalist, Wispy Bayly. She and her friends became my regular field assistants for this rock, or citizen scientists as they called themselves. She proved invaluable in gathering extra data and moreover provided me with accommodation in her granny flat on her nearby property.

I should add my caravan stayed at my HQ at Hyden and I camped on these trips.

Wispy belonged to an active conservation group at Mukinbudin and they were holding a granite symposium to which I was invited to be a speaker. This went off well and for me provided many useful contacts throughout the Wheatbelt. You see, I had decided to study pit gnammas, as well as the common pan gnammas, and they are hard to find and many are 'hidden' on private property. In addition the group initiated a study of a local inselberg, Isoetes Rock, and included in this was an annual 'discovery learning day' for local schools. Various classes of students spent about two hours at the rock divided between hands-on botany, conservation and zoology by three experts. In that I had live animals as props I had a tremendous advantage in getting the kids interested. For my part we viewed gnamma inhabitants in petri dishes or under microscopes and then we spent time on our bellies with heads over a nearby gnamma. Initially the students saw only the obvious inhabitants such as tadpoles and clam shrimps but with time the older ones saw the clear fairies, small ostracods and even the tiny chydorid cladocerans. Their headmaster was embarrassed by the mating fairies but the highschoolers were fascinated.

Other landowners I got to know included the managers of Balladonia Station on the western fringe of the Nullarbor. The lady of the house, after I introduced her to the fairy and clam shrimps on her granite outcrop, became fascinated with them and made sure all her grandkids and other visitors were

introduced to her extended 'family.' Her interest and devotion to the gnamma shrimps, as well as to my gastronomical needs, were exceptional, so I named a new species found in limestone gnammas on the western Nullarbor after her --- Lynceus susannae. Another farming family near Beacon showed me many pit gnammas in their area, including some way out in the scrub which they had discovered. There were others too, so that I was truly blessed by the hospitality and knowledge of the locals.

However there is always an exception. One farmer denied me access to his salt lake which frustrated me enormously. So I snuck in one very early morning and saw beyond his lake marijuana growing among the trees he had planted to alleviate his salinity problem. This could not be seen from the road and difficult to spot from the air. I now had a moral problem of whether or not to report the crop, but I decided not to as I myself had broke the law in making the discovery.

At one stage I spent much time in Esperance hinterland obsessed by acid saline lakes and their endemic Parartemia. To check the distribution of these shrimps I headed east to the western Nullarbor on deep sand tracks. To travel these tyre pressure is reduced to 10-12 psi. In one place I had collected an escort of a male Emu and four half grown chicks who just couldn't leave the track because of the thick low mallee on both sides. Then around a bend came an idiot 4WD driver at excessive speed for the conditions. To avoid a collision I left the track, but still one chick got swashed, but the others somehow survived and disappeared at high speed just like the mad driver. In surveying my damage I found both front tyres spiked and very flat. With difficultly, I changed them to the two spares I carried and then motored on carefully to Esperance. Two new tyres were expensive. Why is life so unfair at times?

I have one regret in my studies in the West. I should have gone 30 years earlier before rainfall had decreased 30% due to climate change. There were so many saline lakes and gnammas that remained dry, when, if they had had water during winter as they once did, would have told an even more fascinating limnological tale.

Conference Watch

Society for Freshwater Science
Annual Meeting

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
May 17-21, 2015

Important Dates
- 27 October 2014 - Call for Abstracts
- 23 January 2015 - Abstract Deadline
- 6 March 2015 - Early Registration Ends

Website: http://sfsannualmeeting.org/

The AMEC Mining and the Environment conference will bring together key industry stakeholders for discussion and debate on environmental practises and techniques related to mining. The conference will cover all aspects of mining and the environment.

It will cover the key policy areas of Mine Closures, Cumulative Impact, Water Resources, Conservation Estates, One Stop Shop approvals and Environmental Offsets.

The goal of the conference is to assure that the industry takes its environmental obligations seriously and to improve overall industry practices.

The AMEC Mining and the Environment Conference will be held at City West Receptions in West Perth on 24-25 February 2015
http://www.amec.org.au/events/mining-and-the-environment-conference-2015

Lake Eyre Basin Aboriginal Forum 2015

LAKE EYRE BASIN

Save the Date: The Lake Eyre Basin Aboriginal Forum will be held near Mount Isa in Queensland on 15-17 September 2015. More information will be available on the event in early 2015.
http://www.lakeeyrebasin.gov.au/news/2014/09/15/lake-eyre-basin-aboriginal-forum-2015

EIFAAC Symposium on Recreational Fisheries

ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/eifac/News/Symposium_Recreational_Fisheries-June2015.pdf

Did you know....?

48TH MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE

26-30 January 2015, in Gland, Switzerland.

The 48th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the final Standing Committee meeting before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Punta del Este, Uruguay in June 2015, will take place at the Secretariat headquarters in the IUCN facilities in Gland, Switzerland. More information for participants will be available soon.

http://www.ramsar.org/event/48th-meeting-of-the-ramsar-standing-committee

The Water Vista: What's happening in water management across Australia

By Paul Wettin

It is proposed to enhance the ASL Newsletter with an article(s) in each Issue which outlines recent activities in water management that are of national or inter-state significance and which have major implications for freshwater aquatic ecosystems. The purpose(s) of this article could be to provide one of all of the following:

1. A basic outline of the issue(s) for member information purposes only

2. A more editorial/opinion/commentary piece coverage of a particular issue/activity to instigate member input

3. Initiate the possible development of an ASL policy on the issue(s) and thus potentially be used to influence policy and decision-makers

The following are recent water resource management initiatives which are of national significance and which could be the focus for inclusion in the Newsletter:

- The Federal Governments Dams Task Force and the 30 identified projects, and the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper
- Federal Government's Developing Northern Australia Policy
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Long Term Environmental Watering Plan
- The National Water Commission's final report- Australia's water blueprint: national reform assessment 2014
- The Wentworth Group's Statement on the Future of Australia's Water Reform

As an example of a Newsletter article the following is provided to outline a key issue for members (for reasons which will be obvious):

<u>Coming your way- Major Water Development Projects</u>

In the lead up to the Federal election in 2013 the Coalition had a policy of pursuing water resource development projects across Australia. Initially some 100 projects were considered. Following the election the Prime Minister established a "Dams Task Force" chaired by Barnaby Joyce- Minister for Agriculture. The Task Force has identified 30 projects which have potential to proceed. The following is the best explanation of the process

and projects found in a web search (http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/sites-on-coalitions-dambuilding-shortlist/story-fn59niix-1227041970000):

The dams shortlist includes the Fitzroy River in north Queensland and proceeding with the third stage of the Ord River Scheme in the Kimberley in northwestern Australia.

Commonwealth support for the central Queensland Nathan Dam and expanding the Burdekin Dam in north Queensland are also under consideration.

The list includes the Chaffey Dam upgrade near Tamworth and the Menindee Lakes upgrade. Both NSW projects have already received federal government funding commitments. Federal cabinet is set to consider the dams report within weeks but the decision on which projects to bring forward will be up to the Prime Minister.

Mr Joyce said the fact that a shortlist of 30 dam proposals had been handed to the Prime Minister showed the Coalition was serious about the policy it had taken to the last election. However he said it did not mean that all 30 projects would go ahead. The list had been pared back from 100 proposals that the Coalition examined before the last election. "The process is ongoing," he said.

Mr Joyce said Australia was in a sweet spot in agriculture with the growth of southeast Asian markets but volumes would have to increase greatly for the nation to reap the benefit. "It will not happen by accident; it will happen by planning," he said.

He said some dams would be able to proceed with funding from the private sector. Ord Stage II had proceeded with Chinese investment and there was no reason Ord Stage III could not proceed with private investment.

Mr Joyce said Ord Stage III was exciting because it had the potential to move water from Western Australia back into the Northern Territory.

The dams shortlist includes the Apsley Dam in NSW which was shelved in the 1980s by the Wran state government.
Mr Joyce said expanding water storage on the Fitzroy River and building the Nathan Dam would not only benefit agriculture, it would benefit the mining industry which required water to operate.

He added that it was necessary to invest now so that when mining began to expand again, the industry was in a position to take advantage of it.

Environment Minister Greg Hunt, his parliamentary secretary Simon Birmingham and Assistant Infrastructure Minister Jamie Briggs were also on the ministerial taskforce. The shortlist was formed after discussions with state governments on which projects were feasible and worthy of further consideration.

On 20th October Minister Joyce released the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper with a media release titled "Dams and water infrastructure investment: your views count". (http://www.maff.gov.au/Pages/Media%20Releases/dams-water-infrastructure-investment.aspx).

While the Green paper covers a wide range of topics, based on the media release

there seems to be a particular focus on water resources development and the role of a water infrastructure ministerial working group. The media release also says:

> ".. I am holding a National Water Infrastructure Roundtable on Wednesday, 29 October, in Canberra to progress discussions with key financiers, constructors and industry leaders, involved in water infrastructure," Minister Joyce said.
> "It's essential that we get this right – industry consultation will be central to the process."

The working group will be consulting government, industry and local communities on the perceived barriers to water infrastructure development and exploring ways to facilitate investment in water infrastructure.

The Green paper is available at https://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/ and submissions are being sought for the development of a White paper. The deadline for submissions is 12 December.

Commentary (if one is sought)

Despite an extensive web search, a report (mentioned above) could be found and which presumably fully explains the purpose, objectives, process and outcomes of the Task Force. For example what role, if any, did the principles of the National Water Initiative play in the considerations of the Task Force?

A list of the 30 projects was not found-only media coverage (as per above) of selected projects. Additional to those mentioned above media coverage was found for a proposed Warrai Dam on the upper Adelaide River in the NT and for the proposed Needles Dam on Belabula River, a tributary of the Lachlan River in NSW.

Subsequently a list of 28 projects in 3 categories was found in the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper (see page 76). Presumably these projects were the bulk of the 30 identified by the Task Force.

In general this situation indicates a concerning lack of detail and transparency for this policy initiative and particularly so when hundreds of millions or billions of public funds could potentially be spent if several of the projects proceed. In this context the following National Water Commission's final report recommendations to the Prime Minister are relevant:

> Recommendation 8
> Governments should invest in water infrastructure only after rigorous cost-benefit analysis.
>
> All government water infrastructure investment should generate a return for the community and be subject to robust water planning and transparent cost-benefit analysis.
>
> Recommendation 9
> The National Water Initiative principles should underpin resource development decisions.
>
> NWI principles, including best practice water pricing, should underpin all new water developments including those in northern Australia.

Cart before the horse?

The Needles Dam project (estimated cost

of $150 million) mentioned above has already been included in the NSW infrastructure budget despite the absence of a feasibility study. The NSW Government subsequently allocated $1 million for this study and recently announced an additional $2.5 million for this study. Obviously this dam would have serious implications for aquatic and wetland ecosystems of the Lachlan River system and the water management arrangements under the Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan and the meeting of NSW commitments to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Where is aquatic ecology in these discussions?

Should ASL become involved? Do we want to be involved?

Many talks at ASL Congresses have identified that the most critical aspect of getting reasonable or even good ecological outcomes with water management and projects is to be there at the start and to contribute to the planning.

The Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper provides a clear opportunity for ASL or its members to make a contribution to the White Paper.

Will ASL do so?

If so, how will it be done?

Is anyone from ASL participating in the Roundtable?

If there has been ASL member involvement in the development of these policies, how can other members be informed and possibly contribute?

Please submit comments and suggestions or interest in getting involved to the editor.

Check out the Spring Science and Technology Newsletter. Available on all your favourite Social media.

Science & Technology AUSTRALIA

http://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/STA-September-Newsletter-2014_Web.html

ASL Facebook Facts.....

- open to members and non-members

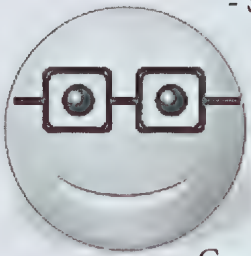
- fun and informative posts

- links to people with similar interests

- links to people around the world

Some recent posts:

- Science to be replaced by anecdotes
- Salmon cannons allow for safe migration
- Job info



181 members and counting.....

Come along, like us, and request to join today.

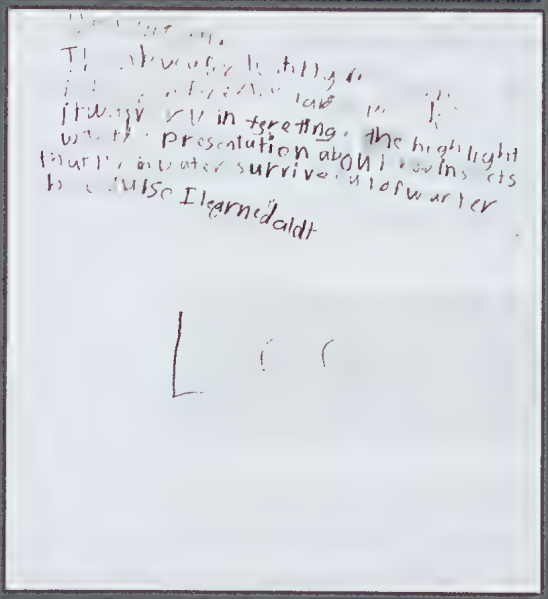
https://www.facebook.com/groups/australiansocietyforlimnology/

Did you know that the ASL facebook page is linked with a Limnology Society in Brazil? - Limnos Ufcs
They kindly supplied this article from their site.... translated using Google. Check them out from the ASL Facebook page.

Leo, a boy of seven years old is the youngest member of the Australian Society for Limnology. Pictured with his poster and copy of the newly released book Australian Freshwater Ecology together with some of the authors of the Joint Congress of the Australian Society for Fish Biology and the Australian Society for Limnology. The Congress was held between June 29 and July 3 in Australia.

This is the second conference attended by a little boy that proved to be a very enthusiastic participant on Monday at the Darwin Convention Centre.

The Youngest limnólogo said about the congress held in 2014, "I liked the interesting lectures that people gave" and he wrote a short letter of thanks including what he liked best. The letter is shown to the left.



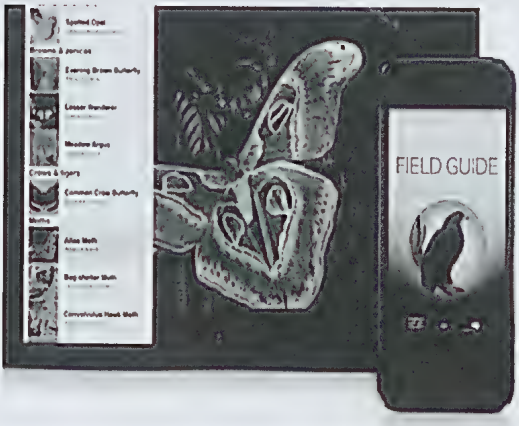
Leo's father thanked the ASN events team, the organizing committee and all of ASL for the attention they provided and for helping to make lilmnology so important in the life of a seven year old boy. And thanks again for encouraging Leo's passion for science and limnology and making him feel special.

What is there not to love?

Photos and disclosures kindly provided by Stephane Chatonsky, Leo's fathter. Story available at

APPS TO KNOW....

Field Guide to Northern Territory Fauna



Description: Field Guide to Northern Territory Fauna app (iPhone & iPad)

This app is one of a suite of eight apps produced by Australia's leading natural history museums (coordinated by Museum Victoria). The development of these apps was generously supported by the Inspiring Australia Unlocking Australia's Potential grant program.

The app is available for both Apple and Android devices, and is FREE!

Support page: http://8hourday.org/discoverycentre/museum-victoria-apps/national-field-guide-apps/field-guide-to-nt-fauna/

Description: Field Guide to Northern Territory Fauna app (Android phone & tablet)

Explore the Northern Territory's unique and diverse wildlife at home or in the great outdoors with the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's Field Guide to NT Fauna app.

The app combines detailed animal descriptions with stunning imagery and sounds to provide a valuable reference that can be used in urban, bush and coastal environments.

It holds descriptions of nearly 600 species, from animals found in tropical rivers and reefs, the outback desert, and your backyard; covering colourful birds, iconic fish and mammals, crocodiles and dangerous snakes, through to tiny termites.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority along with Sumo Software have developed the iSpy Fish app. The iSpy Fish App is now ready for download on iPhones and iPads iSPY Fish is a mobile-based interactive tool presenting information on all fish species occurring in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Primarily targeted at recreational fishers, other users include scientists, naturalists, students and natural resource managers. Colour images, physical descriptions, ecological information and conservation status are provided for 21native, and nine alien, fish species. The App allows users to upload photos and catch detail (species, weight, location, etc) to their own personal Facebook pages and the GBCMA iSpy Fish Facebook page, where data is collated to assist river and wetland management, thereby facilitating citizen science activity and community participation in aquatic resource management. Please feel free to download and to pass on to friends and family https://itunes.apple.com/md/app/ispy-fish/id905736020?mt=8

Water

eWater officially releases a free public ver sion of Source, Australia's national hydrological modelling platform

The Hon Craig Knowles, Chairman of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, officially announced the release of a free public version of eWater Source at the recent 'Source 2014' conference in Canberra, signifying greater accessibility for water resources management organisations in Australia, and particularly in developing countries around the world.

http://www.ewater.com.au/news/media/?news=259

RSS and you: RSS feeds explained

RSS (Rich Site Summary) feeds are a common place thing on the internet today. In summary they are a simple feed of news flashes that contains a title and a few lines of text that can be viewed in a simple list. This enables the reader to skim through the stories and read only what interests them. This is similar to what a lot of websites offer in the form of an 'Email Newsletter' which the reader can subscribe to. The advantage of the RRS feeds over these emails is that an RRS feed does not leave the reader open to SPAM or unsolicited emails of any kind as an email address is not required.

RRS feeds are offered by most websites and are relatively easy to access depending on what internet browser people use. Sites that offer an RRS feed will display the RRS feed logo, most often at the bottom of the page. With the majority of people using Internet Explorer, RRS feeds are very easy to access. Other Browsers may or may not have a built in RRS feed program (Google Chrome does not have one).

There are also stand alone RRS feed readers for those who do not use a browser that has an inbuilt RRS reader. There are hundreds of these programs available and each one of them operates in a similar way. The RRS feed is essentially an internet link that is constantly updated. The stand alone RRS feed reader will get this from the subscribe link. Given that most people will be using IE, this article will not go further into the details of these programs.

Given the prevalence of Internet Explorer (IE) in workplaces, this article will use IE as an example. Clicking on the RRS logo will take you to a page where you can subscribe to the RRS feed. Most websites will have an obvious link or button to subscribe to the feed. This link will often be marked with a plus icon or a plus icon and a star (the star representing your favourites). Clicking on this link in IE will open up a window asking you to subscribe to this feed.

Once you have subscribed to the feed it will be saved in your favourites. This feed can now be accessed by selecting the feed from the list in your favourites menu, represented in the later versions of IE by a star in the top left of the IE window.

You can subscribe to as many RRS feeds as you like. It provides a simple way to keep up with the news without

having to reads through all of the clutter that exists on the internet as well as protect you from SPAM emails.

The ASL website has an RRS feed to ensure that members stay up to date with all of the news, events and jobs among other things that are important to the members. To subscribe to this RRS feed you need to sign in to the members section and scroll down to the RRS feed link (Figure 1) and follow that through to find the RRS logo (figure 2). Clicking on the RRS logo will take you to the subscribe page that also has the current RRS feed on it. Clicking on the 'subscribe to this feed' link will open up the dialog box to save the feed (figure 3). Once subscribed to the feed all of the news is accessible through the link in the feeds of your favourites (Figure 4), rather than having to login to the members section each time.

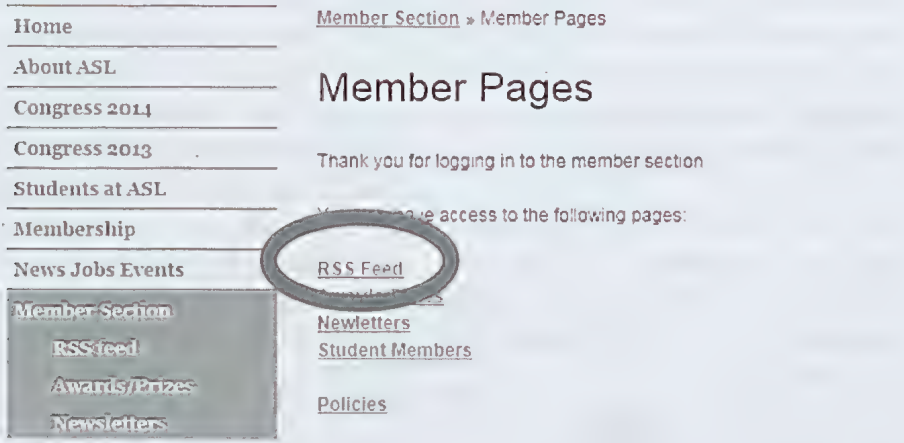


Figure 1: Link to the RRS feed page in the Members Section

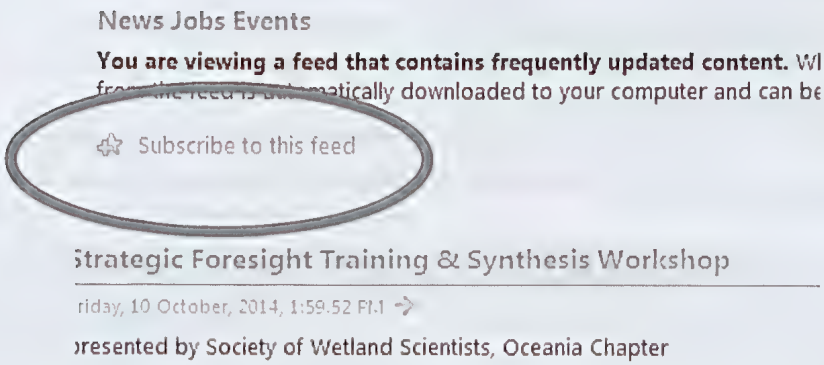

News Jobs Events
You are viewing a feed that contains frequently updated content. WI
Subscribe to this feed
Strategic Foresight Training & Synthesis Workshop
riday, 10 October, 2014, 1:59:52 PM
presented by Society of Wetland Scientists, Oceania Chapter

Figure 3: Subscription link which will open up the dialog box to save the RRS feed

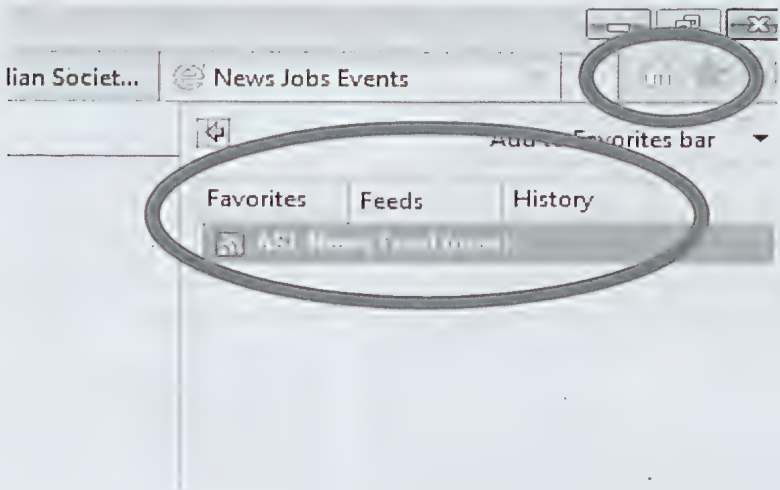


Figure 4: The saved news feed in the favourites link in Internet Explorer (the star in the top right)

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Limnology2014

3 July 2014, Darwin NT

Apologies: B Downes

(p = proposed, s = seconded)
Adoption of agenda: yes (p = B. Robson, s = R. Marchant)
Acceptance of minutes of last AGM: accept (p = B.Robson, s = B.Gawne); no matters arising.

1. President's report
It has been another busy and productive year for the Society. Firstly, I would like to thank each member of the ASL executive committee for their support and contributions to the teleconferences during the year. I would also like to thank ASN Events, especially Jacqui and Simon, for all their help during the year and being so responsive to all our requests. I would also like to thank the organizing committee for this year's conference, chaired by Alison King. Thanks also to Erica Garcia who represented ASL on the local organizing committee. Joint conferences are a dauntingly large undertaking, but the committee, ably supported by ASN staff, have done a wonderful job.

I am pleased to report that ASL's membership is increasing. We presently have 427 members of which 100 are student members. One of the Society's challenges is retaining student members once they graduate and move on in their professional lives. If we could retain most of our student members, the society would grow larger and be able to deliver more services to its members and increase the support available for students. The annual congress is an essential part of ASL membership, but if we wish to retain these ex-students as members, we need to offer other opportunities than the annual congress, which they may not be able to attend regularly. One way to add value to members who cannot attend congresses is to hold state-based activities, and as employer budgets tighten these will become increasingly important to maintain a community of scientists.

It has only been 7 months since the last AGM, but some states have held state-based activities. A successful symposium on the science behind coal-seam-gas extraction was held between adjacent states and involved members from NSW, the ACT and Queensland. Tasmania has continued its successful

series of pub nights seminars. I urge members to contact their state representatives on the executive and make suggestions of the types of local events you would like to participate in.

Encouraging and supporting student members is always an important part of ASLs role, and this year we were able to increase the amount of the student travel award that makes it easier for student members to attend the annual congresses. Culturally sensitive engagement with traditional owners was the topic of student workshops held on Monday. The second annual Lungfish lecture will be presented by Prof Barry Hart this afternoon and I urge everyone, especially our student members, to attend and hear his words of wisdom. We'd also like to see the local state events involving student members and I encourage student members to discuss possible events of interest to students with your state representatives.

Early this year the executive decided to make a small change to the criteria for award of the ASL medal. We have added mentoring of early-career scientists as an important activity for which recipients can be cited. This is not an additional criterion to the 3 areas in which a scientist can be nominated (research, management and communication), but is an adjunct to a nomination in one or more of these areas. The executive decided to add mentoring because ASL has a long history of fostering students and other early-career researchers, recognising the importance of a supportive environment for the development of scientists but this was not clearly indicated in the medal criteria. The change was made prior to the call for nominations this year.

In April I wrote to Science and Technology Australia on behalf of ASL presenting members concerns about the value the Society and its members receive from membership. I am yet to receive a response to my letter. I will pursue a reply and keep members informed, but it may be time for ASL to consider resigning from STA and using the $7 per member that we pay them to further the society's aims in other ways.

This past year we have had a larger number of student reps on the executive and involved in organizing student events for the congresses. It has worked well and we would like to continue, but several reps are nearing graduation and so will no longer be student members. So I will be calling for more student representatives later during the AGM. Our group of student reps has developed a proposal for a travel award specifically for indigenous students, along the lines of that awarded by ESA and the executive will be developing this idea over the coming year.

Every year many ASL members achieve remarkable things. Of note

this year was another award to Prof Sam Lake, who has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to limnology, ecology and environmental protection. This national recognition of Sam's enormous contribution to Australian limnology is very heartening. ASL should celebrate the successes of its members, but we can only do so if we know about them. So, please let the President or Secretary know of these achievements so that they can be reported in the Newsletter. Generally the ASL president and vice president serve a 2 year term, measured from AGM to AGM. However, because this AGM is only 7 months after the last one I will carry on as President until the end of the year, when I will hand over to our current vice-president Fran Sheldon. Today we will vote in a new vice-president to commence their term at the end of this year when Fran becomes President.

Because of this, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge all the help that I have had as President and Vice President from the Executive, ASN and the wider membership. Particular thanks to Darren Ryder, for always offering support and passing on his knowledge of ASL. To Richard Marchant, for his wisdom and long-term understanding of ASL and its members; Rebecca Lester for her able management of the Society's finances and Fran Sheldon for her support as Vice-President.

Although ASL has had another successful year, unfortunately the political and funding environment supporting science has deteriorated, and both research funding and employment for scientists have declined across Australia. These are challenging times for us all and professional societies such as ASL fulfil an important role by providing places where science is supported and valued. The ASL congress and state meetings can provide much needed recognition of our efforts and a collective sense of purpose that can be hard to find elsewhere.

So on that note, I encourage you all to get involved with the ASL community, especially at the State level; to start bombarding the executive with requests for State-based activities, especially as it will be around 18 months until the next congress in New Zealand. (p = R.Lester, s = L.Barmuta)

2. Secretary's report

Two teleconferences were held since the last AGM; the minutes of these will appear in a future newsletter. These meetings largely dealt with arrangements for the Darwin conference. No feedback has been received from Consumer Affairs Victoria about the amendment to the constitution that members voted on at the last AGM. Thus we can assume that the change was compatible with the model rules for an association. Finally, the secretary received a letter from Andrew Boulton on behalf of his fellow authors

thanking the ASL for its financial support of the production of the second edition of 'Australian Freshwater Ecology: Processes and Management'. This letter is appended to the minutes. (p = L.Barmuta, s = A. George)

3. Treasurer's report

No financial statements for the 2013-14 financial year are available because of holding the AGM so early in the new financial year. However once they are received from the auditor they will be circulated to members (by email). Up until the end of May income has generally balanced expenditure. The society made an estimated surplus of approximately $27000 from the Canberra conference last December. These funds have been used to support student attendance at this meeting (via the student travel awards). The ASL executive has stated before that the society wishes to support students rather than make profits. The society's investment accounts continue to attract modest interest. Several state based activities have been supported but some states have made no requests for funds for this purpose. Please consider applying. The membership of ASL has increased from 409 in 2012-13 to 429 in 2013-14, mostly due to new student members joining the society. (p = B.Gawne, s = F.Sheldon).

4. ASL Newsletter Editor's Report 2014

There have been 3 issues of the ASL Newsletter since the last AGM - Summer 2013/14, Autumn 2014 and the recent Winter 2014 issue. These represent the efforts of many members and particularly those that make the time to rise above their daily grind to send news from the trenches. Recent newsletters have also benefitted from the contribution of longer articles thanks to the penmanship of Gina Newton, Anne Jensen, Deborah Bogenhuber, and staff of the MDFRC. Of course, "In Timms gone by" has been a regular highlight of the newsletter for the last year or so and Brian continues to be a font of inspiration as he recalls his mechanical mishaps and fairy shrimp encounters of days passed. I have enjoyed reading everyone's contributions as I have prepared each newsletter and I hope ASL members have also appreciated these insights into our research community. Thank-you all. (p = M.Reid, s = A.Boulton)

5. ASL medal 2014 – awarded to Associate Professor Fran Sheldon

The ASL medal is awarded in memory of Hilary Jolly and recognises excellence across any of three criteria: research excellence, in particular key publications; education or communication excellence, including the mentoring of early career researchers, that advances and disseminates limnological knowledge in a variety of forums; and management excellence, especially the conservation and management of freshwaters. This year's recipient is remarkable for having been nominated against all three criteria. The nomi-

nation was supported by a wide range of distinguished scientists, including former students, which reflects the diversity of her research in inland waters. She is also the first recipient of the ASL Early Career Excellence Award to have achieved the ASL medal. I am delighted to present Associate Professor Fran Sheldon to you as this year's recipient of the ASL medal.

Fran began her career at the University of Adelaide, where her Honours and PhD, focussing on the Murray River, were supervised by Keith Walker. She then moved on to a variety of post-doctoral research projects on dryland rivers, including Cooper Creek, for the then CRC for Freshwater Ecology, which entailed a move to Griffith University in Queensland. Fran joined the academic staff of the School of Environment at Griffith, where she remains today.

Fran has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to limnological research, especially to the ecology of dryland rivers and the role of hydrological connectivity and flow variability in arid zone systems. She has more than 65 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. She is respected worldwide for her influential publications on arid-zone limnology (for example, the now classic paper with Puckridge, Walker & Boulton has been cited >500 times) and she has written high-impact papers on river ecology and management with a diverse array of national and international co-authors.

Fran is a gifted teacher and mentor. Her inspiring lectures and innovative practical classes in freshwater ecology has led to awards from Griffith University for Excellence in Teaching for both undergraduate and postgraduates. Over more than two decades, many students and colleagues have been mentored by Fran and guided by her consistent wisdom which is always generously shared. Many of Fran's postgraduates have gone on to make their own significant limnological contributions, working in management and conducting post-doctoral research.

Fran's wide scientific experience, her professional collegiality and her capacity to communicate effectively have ensured that she has made important contributions to the management of rivers, in particular to the assessment of catchment and river condition in dryland rivers and in urban catchments. Her contributions have substantially enhanced the effectiveness of policy and management actions, especially in rivers of south-east Queensland and inland Australia.

I therefore invite Fran to accept this medal and to present the Hilary Jolly award address at our next congress in New Zealand in 2015.

6. Early Career Researcher Award

The Australian Society for Limnology

Early Career Excellence Award aims to reward and encourage excellence by an early career limnologist who has contributed substantially to Australian limnology or aquatic ecosystem management. Nominations received are assessed on criteria including excellence in published papers or other scholarly media; substantial improvements in 'on-ground' water resource management; peer recognition by invitations to speak at congresses; overseas experience applied to Australian limnology; and excellence in communication, extension and education in limnology.

Once again, this year, it is my honour, on behalf of the selection committee, to announce the winner of the ASL Early Career Excellent Award. For 2014, that winner is Dr Jane Catford. Jane is a plant ecologist specialising in community assembly and invasion ecology. Her key research questions include how humans alter community assemblages by altering environmental filters and dispersal patterns, or by introducing species with novel evolutionary histories. Jane's work focuses on how an understanding of these factors may be used to alleviate human-induced ecological disturbances.

Jane was awarded her PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2009, investigating plant communities and invasion ecology in the Murray-Darling Basin, under the supervision of Professor Barb Downes. Jane was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award in 2011 where she is researching the susceptibility of native vegetation edges to alien plant invasion using quantitative and experimental approaches. To date, Jane has published 12 papers, with an impressive number of citations, including one with more than a hundred citations. She has published in prestigious journals such as Nature, Global Change Biology and the Journal of Applied Ecology.

In addition to her outstanding research track record, Jane has undertaken international development work, including an AusAid funded research project in China assessing river health and environmental flows. Jane contributes to research training, supervising six PhD candidates. She has a clear gift for communication that is evident in her engaging blog and the manager-friendly articles that she writes for Decision Point, a monthly magazine produced by the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions.

Jane's mix of theoretical and applied ecological knowledge, her skill and productivity as a researcher, and her commitment to developing ecology through student training and engagement with managers and policy makers mean that she is already an effective ambassador for Australian limnology, and a worthy winner of this year's award.

Therefore, we invite Jane to present the 2015 Christy Fellows Lecture at next year's Congress.

7. Bill Williams Travel Award

One award was made since the last AGM. This was to Sylvia Hay of the University of NSW who attended the Joint Aquatic Sciences meeting in Oregon in May 2014. As noted at the last AGM, all applications must be received between 1 Dec and 31 Jan of a financial year, i.e 1 Dec 2014 and 31 Jan 2015 for 2014-15. Other details of the application process are on the ASL web site.

8. Student Travel Awards

An award of $1500 were made to each of the following to help cover costs in attending the conference in Darwin: Teresa Mackintosh, Melissa Klamt, Sally Hatton, Emma Razeng, Ashley Murphy, Nick Moran, Scott Strachan, Caitlin Bartholomaeus, Jordan Iles, Fariba M Pakdel, Peter O'Toole, Prue McGuffie, Harry Eason, Gaia McNeil, Patrick Bonney, Ann-Marie Rohlfs, Sylvia Hay, James Hitchcock.

9. Future Congresses

The next ASL congress will be a joint meeting with the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society. This will be held in New Zealand, probably in the north island and in early December 2015. No further details are currently available. The 2016 congress will be held in Ballarat at Federation University

10. Election of the executive

A nomination has been received for a new vice-president – Ross Thompson (p = F.Sheldon, s = D.Ryder). He was elected unopposed. Two new student representatives were elected: Sam Dawson, Emma Razeng.

11. Election of Auditor

R. Marchant proposed (s = B.Robson) that Coster Galgut be re-elected.

12. Newsletter Editor

Amy George has volunteered to take over this role from Sam Capon who is stepping down. There was discussion about whether it would be worthwhile publishing news items on the website as they came to hand and publishing the newsletter once a year. Thus the single issue published each year would be a compilation of the contributions made throughout the year.

General Business

(a) B. Robson has received no response from STA (Science and Technology Australia) to her letter. She will pursue this and inform members of the results, probably by the newsletter.

(b) F. Sheldon discussed indigenous issues as she saw them relating to the ASL. She suggested that the ASL could have a new membership category – community membership – which could admit non-scientists and a travel award (similar to the student travel award) to enable indigenous people to attend congresses. She advocated

engaging with the local indigenous community as part of conference planning and suggested that indigenous delegates could have free registration. She and Teresa Mackintosh offered to be the contact people for these initiatives. A show of hands indicated that at least 50% of members at the AGM supported these ideas.

(c) R.Marchant proposed (s = L.Barmuta) a vote of thanks to Belinda Robson for her presidency. Her tenure will end at the end of 2014 and Fran Sheldon (vice president) will take over. Loud applause followed.

Meeting closed at 1.40pm

Minutes from ASL Executive Teleconference

29 September, 2014

Present: B. Robson, R. Marchant, R. Lester, D. Ryder, A. Steward, G. Dunkerley, F. Sheldon, S. Dawson, E. Gangell (ASN)

Apologies: R. Thompson, T. Mackintosh

1. Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV): the ASL could not submit its annual return to CAV for 2014 because the financial statements had not been finalised at the time of AGM in Darwin and thus could not be presented to the members. R. Marchant applied for an extension of time to submit the financial statements. This was granted by CAV but only to 17 December 2014. RM wrote back asking for an extension to Nov or Dec 2015 (i.e. after the next AGM in New Zealand). RM has had a reply indicating that CAV cannot approve an extension for a period of more than 3 months. RM will write to CAV in the hope of obtaining some resolution of this problem and will keep the executive informed.

2. Newsletter: Amy George, the current editor, has suggested that the frequency of publication of the newsletter be reduced to 2 issues per year. Thus ASL members would have a longer period for producing content for the newsletter and this may result in a greater diversity of material submitted. News items that need to be acted on quickly, e.g. conference reminders, could be placed on the ASL's Facebook page or onto its RSS newsfeed. B. Robson will write to the editor agreeing to this change and asking her to prepare instructions for accessing RSS and Facebook.

3. Science and Technology Australia (STA): B.Robson wrote asking STA to explain what benefits ASL gets from subscribing to this organisation. The STA reply was essentially a form letter that said nothing that the president and the ASL at large did not already know. R. Thompson has suggested that ASL might withdraw from STA after the next AGM and that STA should be warned about this possibility. B. Robson will reply suggesting that STA needs to develop a concrete process by which freshwater issues can be put to politicians, otherwise the society can see little point in remaining a

subscriber.

4. National Academy for Science: B.Robson has contacted the academy about their creation of a National Committee on Ecology, Evolution and Conservation. Currently, there appear to be no freshwater representatives on this committee. Expressions of interest about being involved have been publicised. R.Lester and F. Sheldon will register with this committee and represent freshwater interests. An email address for correspondence with the academy will be set up by ASN events.

5. Next congress: this will be a joint conference with the NZ Freshwater Sciences Society in New Zealand. No dates or location have been published, but B.Robson believes it could be held from 23-27 Nov 2015, possibly in Wellington. When available, information will be given in the newsletter.

6. Photo competition: D. Ryder informed the executive that he and Ben Gawne will set up a photo competition for the next congress; they were inspired by the photo competition run by the Aust Society for Fish Biology at the Darwin meeting. They have already secured a $500 prize from Ecological Australia and MDFRC will pay for the printing of photos. D. Ryder will draw up rules which will posted on the ASL website and in the newsletter.

7. Conference attendance award for indigenous people: T. Mackintosh will email details of this award to ASN for distribution to members. The creation of this award has largely been an initiative of the student members of the ASL executive. The idea is to attract indigenous students interested in freshwater (and those working in remote areas) to participate in ASL meetings.

ASL Communications

Have your say

The ASL charter requires a hardcopy newsletter be provided to members which includes, at a minimum, information regarding the ASL Annual General Meeting and society financial reports. The current newsletter is published quarterly and primarily relies on member submissions for its content. Since you are reading this article, you are likely aware of the types of additional information provided in the newsletter such as state ASL updates, letters from the ASL president and minutes from the Executive meetings.

Other forms of communication like the ASL webpage (maintained by ASN Events) and Facebook have filtered into our everyday lives and are now commonplace. We even have a live newsfeed on the website providing up-to-date information and an avenue for instant communication.

During the AGM held during the Darwin ASFB/ASL Conference in June 2014, members identified a need for revisions to ASL communications which integrates these 'new' communications. Some members said they fail to read the newsletter since it can be perceived to be a lower priority when attached to work emails. These members identified a preference for a more on-going supply of information about the society. However, other members indicated an affinity for the hard copy newsletter that they could print out and read at their leisure. A format which meets both of these needs is required to engage a large number of ASL members.

While the current delivery formats are suitable for reaching ASL members, the frequency and types of information conveyed appear to be the limitation in ensuring on-going engagement. In an attempt to find the 'happy medium' to deal with these concerns, the following changes are proposed.

1. Maintain hardcopy (electronic) newsletters, but reduce their frequency to biannually.

Since the newsletter content is supported by member submissions, it is challenging to collate and organise sufficient content for a quarterly newsletter, particularly when key news may have already been posted to the website. If the frequency of the newsletter is reduced a greater diversity of content can be offered. The 6-month period provides members with a greater time period for preparing and submitting content.

2. Expanded use of Facebook stories to include in the newsletter content

The ASL Facebook page is for both members and non-members thus has a diverse range of content. Activity on the page has recently increased and some of the content would be interesting to members who don't use Facebook. It is proposed

that those who post content or stories of a broader interest, with permission, be asked to submit expanded content for the newsletter. An example of this is a story that a limnological society in Brazil prepared about the special poster presentation at our annual conference in Darwin. They have provided permission for us to include the story in the newsletter.

3. Upload of ASL news onto the RSS newsfeed accompanied by an email (frequency to be determined) reminder of the feed.

Content that needs to be more up-to-date, such as conference reminders, can be relegated to the newsfeed. The newsfeed then acts as the immediate presentation of information that may require action. To ensure this reaches members, an automated email or notification can be established which alerts members to new information on the newsfeed.

The executive committee has discussed these changes (see the minutes of the last meeting) and like the idea of them. However, there may alternatives not yet put forward. So, we would like to hear your feedback, thoughts, other ideas and suggestions on how we can better communicate as a society.

Come on and have your say!

Please send responses to the newsletter editor.

Griffith UNIVERSITY

Australian Rivers Institute

The year may be winding up but there's still plenty of action here at the Australian Rivers Institute with new students, awards and international collaborations.

International News

Dr Morgan MacDonald recently returned from an exploratory trip to Majuro in the Marshall Islands, where he met with local stakeholders working on pertinent climate change issues. Morgan spent two weeks engaging with representatives from regional institutions and government ministries to develop a stronger understanding of worsening drought conditions, and the challenges facing freshwater security. Data collection is scheduled to begin in October, in partnership with researchers from the University of North Carolina and the University of Alabama.

In July Dr Ben Stewart-Koster spent time in Vietnam working on a project to develop sustainable methods for rice and shrimp farming in the southern Mekong Delta. The trip began with a two day workshop in Ho Chi Minh City to train local aquaculture scientists in the use of Bayesian Belief Network's (BBN) and techniques for expert elicitation. Following that the team headed out to the Delta to meet with farmers on their land and test their new skills of expert elicitation. At the conclusion of the trip, a prototype BBN of the system was put together, which will be used to incorporate data from experimental work on the project and facilitate its interpretation.

It has been a busy few months for Dr Sue Jackson who attended World Water Week in Stockholm in September at the invitation of the Stockholm International Water Institute. Sue presented a paper on Indigenous peoples and mine water management: the role of agreements in a session on Indigenous peoples, water and the extractive industries. While in Stockholm Sue also attended a function organised by the Australian Ambassador to welcome the contributors to World Water Week from Griffith University's ARI, the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the ANU.

Sue also attended River Symposium in Canberra and took the opportunity to meet with Rebecca Tharme of The Nature Conservancy to advance their shared interest in encouraging more social scientists to engage with environmental flows research and management. To that end, Rebecca has proposed a dedicated session on social and ecohydrological science connections at 4th Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science due to be held in May 2015 in Wisconsin, USA.

Research News

Dr. Chris Brown has joined ARI this month, on a research fellowship. Chris was previously at the University of Queensland, working on modelling of

marine ecosystems for their conservation and sustainable fisheries management. At ARI, he is looking forward to getting involved with research on the conservation of freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Student News

Joe McMahon recently began a PhD looking at the feasibility of using revegetation of South East Queensland's (SEQ) waterways as a means of improving water quality prior to reaching key drinking water infrastructure. This involves quantifying the effectiveness of vegetation in reducing erosion over large spatial scales in an event driven system; and the risk, uncertainty and return associated with an investment at this scale. This builds on work he completed as a research assistant on rehabilitation strategies and sediment budget modelling in SEQ with Professor Jon Olley over the previous four years. His supervisors are Dr Simon Linke, Dr Jim Smart and Dr Andrew Brooks.

Man Xiao, who has just received her master's degree from Hohai University, China, has begun her PhD under Professor Michele Burford. Her research will focus on better understanding the environmental factors controlling and promoting the growth of toxic cyanobacteria. More specifically, her topic will focus on the competition strategies of two common cyanobacterium, Cylindrospermopsis and Microcystis, using lab incubation and field surveys, combined with gene sequence analysis.

Leigh Gould, who completed her honours with Associate Professor Fran Sheldon, started her PhD this September. She is again being supervised by Fran, along with Dr Jacinta Zalucki and Dr Sam Capon. Her topic is to identify barriers to natural regeneration within modified riparian zones of South East Queensland.

A big congratulation's to Maizah Mohd Abdullah, a PhD student based on the Gold Coast campus and supervised by Professor's Joe Lee and Brian Fry. Maizah has won an award for the best oral presentation for young scientist together with five other international young scientists from different countries (UK, USA, China, Europe) at the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity.

Congratulations are also in order for Amanda Neilsen who won the first place for best student oral presentation based on her honours thesis entitled 'Sources of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen and Implications for Algal Blooms' at the International Conference of Harmful Algae (ICHA) 2014. The conference was held over the last week of October, in Wellington, New Zealand and was also attended by ARI's own Michele Burford who gave a plenary talk, and Research Fellow Dr Anusuya Willis.

Finally, Honours student Aaron Dunlop (supervised by Mark Kennard and Jane Hughes) was awarded $5,000 from the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to assist with his project to quantify larval dynamics and recruitment of the endangered Mary River cod (Maccullochella mariensis).

That's all for now, until next time.

Mischa Turschwell and Fen Guo

Aquatic Health Unit
Department of Land Resource Management.

Dr Simon Townsend

Over the last few months, the Julia Schult has undertaken pesticide passive sampling of the Darwin Rural Area springs and an agricultural area of the Daly River catchment. This is investigating the contamination of groundwater, and its subsequent pollution of dry season river flow which is supplied by groundwater. Simon Townsend and Peter Dostine have commenced work in the Roper River catchment where there is a demand for consumptive groundwater that will reduce dry season flows. The relationship between flow and benthic ecology is being investigated during naturally declining flows over the dry season.

A quick summary of what we have all been up to recently…

Sally Hladyz has been busy teaching the 3rd year unit freshwater ecology and finishing up a draft report on looking at ecosystem response to environmental flows in the Goulburn River for the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. Tom Wilkins and Susie Ho are working through Tom's experimental data for his 3rd year research project. Tom has shown that macroinvertebrate predator density can influence productivity and zooplankton recovery, even during winter seasons.

Emma Razeng and Ash Murphy have been sampling in Central Australia again. Ash has spent two weeks collecting fish samples in outback South Australia and the Northern Territory, and is now eagerly awaiting a summer of lab work, data analysis and writing. Emma spent her time in Central Australia catching more insects for genetic analysis. Ash and Emma also spent the week at ESA Alice Springs, where they both presented posters with Emma taking home the poster prize! Wooohoo!

Nicholas Moran is completing his behavioural experiments looking at food web effects on temperament traits in the Australian desert goby. Nicholas is also processing samples for Stable Isotope Analysis to look at the food web characteristics of aquatic ecosystems in the South-Western Lake Eyre Basin.

Mel Klamt is getting closer to finishing her lab work; the pile of invertebrate samples in the freezer is getting lower thanks to the assistance of a few dedicated volunteers. Mel will be heading to Canberra for a week to spend some time with the IAE crew to get some thesis writing done.

ASL experts

Prof A. Arthington: in stream flows, ecology of exotic fishes, conservation of rare fishes. Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, Nathan QLD 4111. Phone (07) 3875 7403, Fax (07) 3875 7615, email: a.arthington@mailbox.gu.edu.au

A/Prof P. Boon: bacteriological issues, wetlands. Environmental Management, Victoria University of Tech., PO Box 14428 MMC, VIC 3000. Phone (03) 9365 2214, Fax (03) 9365 2465, email: paul.boon@vu.edu.au

Dr K.Bowmer: pesticides - fate and ecological impact, aquatic plant management. Charles Sturt University, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678. Phone (02) 6933 2221, Fax (02) 6933 2060, email: kbowmer@csu.edu.au

Dr M. Brock: temporary wetlands, aquatic plants. 47 Brightwater Rd, Blackmans Bay, TAS 7052. Phone (03) 6227 1812, mobile 0429721416, email: brock.margaret@gmail.com

Prof. S. Bunn: stream ecology, ecology of riparian zones, biomonitoring. Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, Nathan, QLD 4111. Phone (07) 3735 7407, Fax (07) 3735 7615, email: s.bunn@griffith.edu.au

Dr M.Casanova: charophytes, temporary wetlands. 273 Casanova Rd Westmere, VIC 3351. Phone (03) 5350 2111, email: amcnova@netconnect.com.au

Prof J.Davis: wetland and stream ecology, ecology of central Australian waterbodies. Department of Biological Sciences, PO Box 18, Monash University, Clayton VIC 3800. Phone (03) 9905 1063, email: Jennifer.Davis@sci.monash.edu.au

Prof. P. De Deckker: salt lakes: biology, chemistry and history; palaeolimnology towards understanding past environmental change. Dept. of Earth & Marine Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200. Phone (02) 6125 2070, Fax (02) 6125 5544, email: patrick.dedeckker@anu.edu.au

Dr. M. Douglas: tropical freshwater ecology, intermittent streams, tropical floodplains. School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Northern Territory University, Darwin, NT 0909. Phone (08) 8946 7261, Fax (08) 8946 6847, email: michael.douglas@ntu.edu.au

Dr S.Eberhard: groundwater dependent ecosystems (subterranean fauna), caves and karst. Subterranean Ecology, Scientific Environmental Services, Greenwood, WA. Phone (08) 9203 9551

Dr M. Finlayson: wetland ecology and management; mining and agriculture impacts; inventory and assessment, Ramsar convention. Institute of Land, Water and Society, Charles Sturt University, Albury NSW. Phone (02) 6051 9779, email: mfinlayson@csu.edu.au

Dr A. García: taxonomy, ecology, biology and biogeography of extant and fossil charophytes. School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522. Phone (02) 4221 5966, Fax (02) 4221 5703, email: adriana@uow.edu.au

A/Prof M.Grace: nutrient cycling and biogeochemical processes. Chemistry Department, Monash University,Clayton, VIC 3800. Phone (03) 9905 4078, Fax (03) 9905 4196, email: michael.grace@sci.monash.edu

Dr T. Grant: platypus biology. Biological Science, University of NSW, PO Box 502, Cronulla, NSW 2230. Phone (02) 9527 2862, Fax (02) 9527 2862, email: t.grant@unsw.edu.au

Associate Professor M. Greenway: Constructed wetlands, Melaleuca wetlands, biogeochemical processes. School of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Environmental Engineering, Griffith University, Nathan QLD 4111. Phone (07) 3875 7486, Fax (07) 3875 7404, email: m.greenway@mailbox.gu.edu.au

K. Hortle: Fisheries and environment, impact of mining, impact of development in SE Asia and PNG on rivers. 23A Waters Grove, Heathmont VIC 3135. Phone (03) 9720 5891, email: kent_hortle@bigpond.com

A/Prof P. Horwitz: conservation of freshwater invertebrates. Centre for Ecosystem Management, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Drive, Joondalup, WA 6027. Phone (08) 9400 5558, Fax (08) 9400 5070, email: phorwitz@cowan.edu.au

Prof. P.S. Lake: stream ecology, conservation freshwater biota. Department of Biological Sciences, PO Box 18, Monash University, Clayton, VIC 3800. Phone (03) 9905 5653, Fax (03) 9905 5613, email: sam.lake@sci.monash.edu.au

Dr C. McCullough: mine water remediation and management, mining pit lakes, acid mine drainage, acid sulfate soils, ecotoxicology. Edith Cowan University, 270 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup WA 6027. Phone (08) 6304 5143, email: c.mccullough@ecu.edu.au

Dr V. Matveev: plankton food webs, biomanipulation. CSIRO Land and Water, 80 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, QLD 4068. Phone (07) 3214 2755, Fax (07) 3214 2881, email: vlad.matveev@csiro.au

K. Muller: constructed wetlands, wetlands of the lower Murray. River Murray Catchment Water Management Board, 1 Colman Tce, Strathalbyn SA 5255. Phone (08) 8536 8125, Fax (08) 8536 8126, email: kerri_muller@triplei.com.au

Dr R. Pearson: tropical freshwater ecology. School of Tropical Biology, James Cook, University, Townsville, QLD 4811. Phone (07) 4781 5466, Fax (07) 4781 5511, email: richard.pearson@jcu.edu.au

Dr P. Pollard: microbial ecology. Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, Nathan QLD 4111 Phone (07) 3875 6597, Fax (07) 3875 7404, email: p.pollard@griffith.edu.au; web: www.microbialecology.org

Dr W. Ponder: taxonomy, biogeography and biology of freshwater mollusca. Invertebrate Zoology, Australian Museum, 6 College St, Sydney NSW 2001. Phone (02) 9320 6120, Fax (02) 9320 6050, email:winstonp@amsg.austmus.gov.au

Dr M. Serena: platypus ecology and conservation. Australian Platypus Conservancy, PO Box 84, Whittlesea VIC 3757. Phone (03) 9716 1626, Fax (03) 9716 1664, email: platypus@vicnet.net.au

Dr B. Sherman: reservoir management, cold water pollution and algal blooms. CSIRO Land & Water, Water Quality and Environmental Flows, GPO Box 1666 Canberra ACT 2601. Phone (02) 6246 5579, email: brad.sherman@csiro.au

Prof. R. Thompson: food web ecology, stream and lake ecology, climate change effects on aquatic habitats. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra. Phone (04) 3053 4094 Email: ross.thompson@canberra.edu.au

Dr B. Timms: lake geomorphology, coastal dune lakes, arid zone wetlands. Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre, BEES, University of NSW, Sydney NSW 2052. Email: brian.timms@unsw.edu.au

Dr L. Townley: groundwater-surface water interactions. Townley & Associates Pty Ltd, PO Box 425, Claremont WA 6010. Phone (08) 9389 6377, Fax (08) 9389 6477, email: LTownley@Townley.com.au

ASL membership

I would encourage all ASL members to visit: www.asl.org.au for information on membership and contact ASN if necessary to bring your account up to date and make any changes necessary to your details. To attend the conference at member rates you must be a financial member.

If your current membership expired June 2014 you will need to renew your membership in order to receive the member rates for the 2015 Congress. Non-member registration fees are well above the ASL membership fee and will not result in an ASL membership as per previous years..

If you think your membership has expired or you need confirmation of your status, please contact Emily Gangell at ASN Events (EG@asnevents.net.au) or phone 03 8692 2038.

Please note, if you do not wish to pay with your credit card online, you can print the form and send a cheque or money order to ASN Events.

ASN Events Pty Ltd
Box 200, Balnarring
Victoria, Australia, 3926
Telephone: +61 (0) 3 5983 2400
Fax: +61 (0) 3 5983 2223

MEMBERSHIP RATES 2013/14
Ordinary Membership with email copy of newsletter: $ 75.00 (incl.GST)
Ordinary Membership with hard copy of newsletter $ 97.00 (incl.GST)
Student Membership with email copy of newsletter: $ 35.00 (incl.GST)
Student Membership with hard copy of newsletter: $ 57.00 (incl.GST)
Ten Year Membership with email copy of newsletter $675.00 (incl.GST)
Ten Year Membership with hard copy of newsletter $873.00 (incl.GST

.....CUT HERE

Method of Payment: Cheque ( ) Money Order ( ) Credit Card ( )

Please Debit my:

Bankcard ( ) Visa card ( ) MasterCard ( )

Card number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Amount $..... Expiry Date .....

Name of card holder.....

Signature.....

Executive Officers 2014

President
Assoc. Prof. Belinda Robson
School of Environmental Science
South Street campus, Murdoch University
90 South Street, Murdoch, Western Australia 6150
Ph: +61 8 9360 2417
Email: B.Robson@murdoch.edu.au

Vice-President
Assoc. Prof. Fran Sheldon
Australian Rivers Institute,
Nathan campus, Griffith University,
170 Kessels Road QLD 4111, Australia
Ph: +61 7 373 53914
Email: f.sheldon@griffith.edu.au

Immediate Past President
Assoc. Prof. Darren Ryder
Dept Ecosystem Management
University of New England, Armidale NSW 2351
Ph: + 61 2 6773 5226
Email: dryder2@une.edu.au

Secretary
Dr Richard Marchant
Museum Victoria, GPO Box 666E
Melbourne VIC 3001
Ph: +61 3 8341 7433
Email: rmarch@museum.vic.gov.au

Treasurer
Dr Rebecca Lester
School of Life and Environmental Sciences
Deakin University, Warrnambool, VIC 3280
Ph: +61 3 556 33330
Email: rebecca.lester@deakin.edu.au

State representatives

Australian Capital Territory
Evan Harrison
Institute of Applied Ecology
University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT
Email: evan.harrison@canberra.edu.au

New South Wales
Gillian Dunkerley
NSW Office of Environment and HeritageSydney, NSW
Email: Gillian.dunkerley@environment.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory
Erica Garcia
Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT
Email: Erica.garcia@cdu.edu.au

Queensland
Alisha Steward
Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, QLD
Email: alisha.steward@griffithuni.edu.au

South Australia
Michelle Bald
Department for Water, Adelaide, SA
Email: michelle.bald@sa.gov.au

Tasmania
Regina Magierowski
University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania
Email: reginam@utas.edu.au

Victoria
Barbara Downes
University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010
Email: barbarad@unimelb.edu.au

Western Australia
Scott Strachan
Murdoch University, Perth, WA 6150
Email: s.strachan@murdoch.edu.au

Student representatives

Teresa Mackintosh
Australian Centre for Biodiversity and School of Biological Sciences
Monash University, Clayton, VIC 3800.
Email: Teresa.mackintosh@monash.edu

Daniela Cortez
University of Technology, Sydney, NSW
Email: Daniela.Cortez@uts.edu.au

Sally Hatton
Institute for Applied Ecology
University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT
Email: sally.hatton@canberra.edu.au

Caitlin Bartholomaeus
Murdoch University, WA
Email: c.bartholomaeus@murdoch.edu.au

ASL Australian Society for Limnology

The Australian Society for Limnology Inc. (ASL) is an Australian based scientific society whose focus is the study and management of inland waters. The ASL was established in 1961, and has a current membership of over 650 researchers, managers, engineers, teachers and tertiary level students from all states and territories. Members have a strong professional interest in inland aquatic issues, including the maintenance of biodiversity, the maintenance and/or restoration of water quality, and the wise use of aquatic resources. The Society also has a strong interest in fostering the scientific and intellectual development of tertiary students.

The Society includes members working in government agencies, tertiary institutions and many industries related to aquatic resources. Through their daily activities, members have contact with local communities and are in a sound position to interpret and advise on inland water issues. The Society has a substantial knowledge base, and has assumed a responsibility to ensure that this is available to those who manage inland waters. Accordingly, the charter of the ASL is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters and to promote their wise use and sustainable management. In this manner we will contribute to the continued existence of this valued resource and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Australians. The ASL regularly produces a newsletter with notes on limnological activities, articles of interest, book reviews and announcements of upcoming events likely to be of interest to Members.

www. asl.org.au

www.facebook.com/groups/australiansocietyforlimnology